WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating a disorder characterized by dysregulation of the GH/IGF axis in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of an IGF-I variant wherein the amino acid residue at position 16, 25, or 49 or the amino acid residues at positions 3 and 49 of native-sequence human IGF-I are replaced with an alanine, a glycine, or a serine residue.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the disorder is a hyperglycemic disorder, a renal disorder, congestive heart failure, hepatic failure, poor nutrition, a wasting syndrome, or a catabolic state wherein IGFBP-1 levels are increased relative to such levels in a mammal without such disorder.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the disorder is a renal disorder.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the renal disorder is chronic or acute renal failure.

5. The method of claim 3 further comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a renally-active molecule.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is human.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein both amino acid residues are replaced with alanine residues.

8. A kit comprising a container containing a pharmaceutical composition containing an IGF-I variant wherein the amino acid residue at position 16, 25, or 49 or the amino acid residues at positions 3 and 49 of native-sequence human IGF-I are replaced with an alanine, a glycine, or a serine residue, and instructions directing the user to utilize the composition for treating a disorder characterized by dysregulation of the GH/IGF axis in a mammal.

9. The kit of claim 8 wherein the disorder is a hyperglycemic disorder, a renal disorder, congestive heart failure, hepatic failure, poor nutrition, a wasting syndrome, or a catabolic state wherein IGFBP-1 levels are increased relative to such levels in a mammal without such disorder.

10. The kit of claim 8 wherein the disorder is a renal disorder.

11. The kit of claim 10 further comprising a container containing a renally-active molecule.

12. The kit of claim 10 wherein the disorder is chronic or acute renal failure.

13. The kit of claim 8 wherein the mammal is human.

14. The kit of claim 8 wherein both amino acid residues of the variant are replaced with alanine residues.